

## CARE FOR WOMEN WRECKS OF STREET URGED BEFORE ALDERMEN

Four women wrecked by dope and booze are told about in the latest report of the Merriam crime committee.

Robert H. Gault of Northwestern university, editor of the Journal of Criminal Law and Crimonology, wrote the report. He writes for the people of Chicago what modern science has to say about the saddest samples of real women ever picked up by the police anywhere in the streets and alleys of Chicago.

One of the women has been in and out of the Bridewell, year in and year out, for over 14 years. Her head goes wrong from stuff she can buy in Chicago whenever she can raise a little money.

The police find her often leaning against a brick wall of a downtown alley at midnight. She talks about a thousand-acre orange plantation she owns out in California, how somebody took it away from her, and somebody is now following her, dogging her footsteps to keep her from reveling in the sunshine of her western valleys of golden fruit.

On charges of disorderly conduct, for 14 years now, the city has been picking her up, convicting her, hauling her to the Bridewell to get poison out of her system—and then turning her loose again.

Give her a needle and colored threads and she does "fancy work" that surprises those who watch her work. Says the Gault report: "The beautiful symbolic embroidery that she produces impresses the uninitiated as evidence of a high degree of intelligence and artistic skill."

Another woman cited has been arrested 15 times in Syracuse, N. Y., four times in Chicago and several times in other cities. Her head is wrong, too. "General paresis," the doctors call it. It is sometimes known as "softening of the brain." Some man of the hundreds of men she has met in hotels and redlight districts

infected this woman with a blood poison. And she buys stuff in Chicago to make her forget. No cure for dope or booze will ever do her any good, the doctors say. Yet she is picked up by the police, serves a Bridewell sentence and goes back on the streets again.

Still another woman "led a decent life until four years ago," says the report, "when she suffered an injury to her skull and thereafter developed alcoholism. For four years she has been in and out of the House of Correction. It is a case of mental aberration following head injury. She will surely continue as a repeatedly disorderly person."

The report carefully states: "These are not extreme cases. They are typical of a great number, any one of which can be appropriately selected in this connection. Dr. Sydney Kuh, the alienist on the staff of the House of Correction, is authority for the statement that each week as many as 25 such characters are committed.

Let the state take care of these wrecks, it is urged. Don't let broken, battered women go back on the streets. Cure them. Don't let them go until they are cured. If they are incurable put them on a farm colony or a permanent hospital.

